



Specialty Tiers Coalition© Update

On September 13, 2011 a groups of 17 organizations came together to form the Specialty Tiers Coalition of Georgia. This Coalition consists of patient advocates who attended a briefing hosted and facilitated by the Advocates for Responsible Care (ARxC) and Georgia Bio to learn more about the impact of insurance industries Specialty Tier categories of drugs on access to medications and learn how this practice is currently impacting Georgia.

The Specialty Tiers Coalition members are already addressing legislators on the dangers of Specialty Tiers cost-shifting which will raise the medication cost of these Tier 4 & 5 & 6 drugs up to 33%. This will be an out of pocket cost to patients.

The Specialty Tiers Coalition has written a letter to the Pharmacy Caucus asking for their support to stop this cost-shifting and discriminatory practice that will make these life-saving, life-enhancing medications prohibitive for patients.

The Advocates for Responsible Care and Arthritis Foundation, SE Region have initiated a *Call to Action* for all Georgians. We are seeking patient stories from individuals who are taking Specialty Tier medications, and having difficulty paying the monthly cost, as set by their health plan. We also want to hear from patients about how this growing trend of increasing patient cost will affect their quality of life.

Please contact ARxC at dlg@wisdomofwellnessproject.com.

The Coalition will continue its efforts to ask for legislation that will allow all Georgians to have full access to their medications without imposing drug tiers based on expense or disease categories.